IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with <u>underlining</u> and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please CANCEL claims 1, 8 and 9, AMEND claims 2-7 and ADD claims 10 and 11 in accordance with the following:

1.   (CANCELLED)

2.   (CURRENTLY AMENDED) ~~The individual information managing device according to claim 1, wherein~~ <u>An individual information managing device connected with a communication line network, for managing individual information, the device comprising:</u>
<u>an individual information storing section in which individual information of each individual is registered;</u>
<u>a disclosure procedure storing section in which an information disclosure procedure assigned to each individual by each individual is registered, the information disclosure procedure including a plurality of disclosure levels into which the individual information is classified, each disclosure level including disclosure items assigned by the individual and being attached with an authentication method assigned by the individual; and</u>
<u>a disclosure procedure executing section that receives a request for disclosing a piece of individual information of a specific individual through the communication line network, executes an information disclosure procedure of the specific individual stored in the disclosure procedure storing section, and transmits the piece of individual information of the specific individual to the communication line network toward an information requesting origin when the assigned information disclosure procedure is satisfied, and</u>
<u>wherein</u> the individual information storing section is registered with each individual information including a plurality of ranked pieces of information for each individual based on an arrangement that each individual assigns a rank to each of the plurality of ranked pieces of information that constitute the individual information from among a plurality of ranks,

the disclosure procedure storing section is registered with an information disclosure procedure according to each rank within each individual assigned by each individual, and

the disclosure procedure executing section receives the request for disclosing the corresponding individual information of the specific individual, and executes an information disclosure procedure stored in the disclosure procedure storing section matching an information disclosure procedure corresponding to a rank assigned to the individual information of the specific individual of which disclosure request is received.

3.   (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The individual information managing device according to claim ~~1~~2, wherein

the disclosure procedure storing section is registered with an information disclosure procedure at a normal time for each individual assigned by each individual, and an information disclosure procedure at an emergency time for each individual assigned by each individual, and

the disclosure procedure executing section receives the request for disclosing the corresponding individual information of the specific individual, with attached information for identifying a normal time and an emergency time, and executes an information disclosure procedure of the specific individual stored in the disclosure procedure storing section matching the information disclosure procedure at a normal time or the information disclosure procedure at an emergency time, depending on whether the request for disclosing belongs to the normal time or the emergency time.

4.   (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The individual information managing device according to claim ~~1~~2, wherein

the disclosure procedure storing section is registered with a posting procedure assigned by each individual for posting to an individual, as a part of an information disclosure procedure for each individual, and

the disclosure procedure executing section has a disclosure request posting section that receives the request for disclosing the corresponding individual information of the specific individual, posts to the specific individual that there has been a request for disclosing the corresponding individual information; in a posting procedure matching a corresponding posting procedure of the specific individual stored in the disclosure procedure storing section, and receives an approval for the individual information disclosure from the individual who received the posting, and the disclosure procedure executing section receives an approval for the individual information disclosure from the disclosure request posting section, and proceeds with the information disclosure procedure.

5.   (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The individual information managing device according to claim ~~1~~2, wherein

the disclosure procedure storing section is registered with an authentication procedure assigned by each individual for authenticating each individual, as a part of an information disclosure procedure for each individual, and

the disclosure procedure executing section has an authenticating section that receives the request for disclosing the corresponding individual information of the specific individual, and authenticates the specific individual in an authentication procedure matching a corresponding authentication procedure of the specific individual stored in the disclosure procedure storing section.

6.   (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The individual information managing device according to claim ~~1~~2, wherein

the disclosure procedure storing section is registered with an authentication procedure assigned by each individual for authenticating each individual, as a part of an information disclosure procedure for each individual, and

the disclosure procedure executing section has an authenticating section that authenticates the specific individual in an authentication procedure matching a corresponding authentication procedure of the specific individual stored in the disclosure procedure storing section, after the disclosure procedure executing section has received an approval for the corresponding individual information disclosure of the specific individual from a disclosure request posting section.

7.   (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The information managing device according to claim ~~1~~2, wherein

the disclosure procedure storing section is freely registered with an authorized person having a right of proceeding with an information disclosure procedure on behalf of the specific individual is transferred for each individual, and

the disclosure procedure executing section receives the request for disclosing individual information of the specific individual, and executes an information disclosure procedure of the specific individual stored in the disclosure procedure storing section matching an information disclosure procedure of the authorized person as a procedure for disclosing the corresponding individual information of the specific individual, when the disclosure procedure storing section is

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registered with the authorized person having the right of proceeding with the information disclosure procedure on behalf of the specific individual is transferred.

8.   (CANCELLED)

9.   (CANCELLED)

10.   (NEW) A method for managing information of users using an information managing device connected with a network, comprising:

storing information of the users in association with information disclosure items, the information disclosure items being correspondingly assigned in accordance with a selection by the users and being provided with authentication methods by the users;

allowing each of the users to define an information disclosure procedure necessary to access respective information of each of the users, the information disclosure procedure including a plurality of disclosure levels into which respective information of the users is classified; and

transmitting information corresponding to the information disclosure items of a specific user among the users responsive to an input of an information disclosure procedure matching the assigned information disclosure procedure corresponding to the specific user, and

wherein the information of the users includes a plurality of ranked pieces of information for each user based on an arrangement that each user assigns a rank to each of the plurality of ranked pieces of information that constitute information of each user from among a plurality of ranks,

an information disclosure procedure according to each rank assigned by each user is registered, and

a request is received for disclosing information of said specific user and an information disclosure procedure matching a rank assigned to the information of the specific user is executed.

11.   (NEW) A method for managing information of users using an information managing device connected with a network, comprising:

storing information of a first user and allowing the first user to define a corresponding disclosure procedure based on a selection of the corresponding disclosure procedure by the first

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user, the corresponding disclosure procedure being used for accessing each item of the information and including a plurality of disclosure levels into which information of the first user is classified; and

executing a corresponding disclosure procedure assigned to an item of the information upon receipt of a request from a second user that satisfies the corresponding disclosure procedure assigned to the item by the first user, and making the item accessible to the second user, and

wherein the information of the first user includes a plurality of ranked pieces of information each ranked based on a rank assigned by said first user,

an information disclosure procedure according to each rank assigned by said first user is registered, and

when said request for disclosing the information of the first user is received, an information disclosure procedure matching an information disclosure procedure corresponding to a rank assigned to the information of the first user is executed.